

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11 remain pending in the above-identified application, with claims 1-8 and 11 standing allowed, and claim 9 standing ready for further action on the merits.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's courtesy in indicating that claims 1-8 and 11 contain allowable subject matter.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claim 9 has been provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of copending application serial no. 10/701,610. Reconsideration and withdraw of this provisional rejection is respectfully requested based on filing herewith of an appropriate terminal disclaimer over the copending application.

CONCLUSION

Based on the remarks presented herein, and the filing of an appropriate terminal disclaimer herewith, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a notice of allowance in the instant case, clearly indicating that each of pending claims 1-9 and 11 are allowed and patentable under the provisions of title 35 of the United States Code.

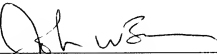
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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Enclosure: Terminal Disclaimer over Copending Application Serial No. 10/701,610.